

Supplementary File 1

Enhancing transparency in reporting the synthesis of qualitative research: the ENTREQ statement

No	Item	Guide and description	Reported on page #
1	Aim	State the research question the synthesis addresses.	1
2	Synthesis methodology	Identify the synthesis methodology or theoretical framework which underpins the synthesis, and describe the rationale for choice of methodology (<i>e.g. meta-ethnography, thematic synthesis, critical interpretive synthesis, grounded theory synthesis, realist synthesis, meta-aggregation, meta-study, framework synthesis</i>).	5
3	Approach to searching	Indicate whether the search was pre-planned (<i>comprehensive search strategies to seek all available studies</i>) or iterative (<i>to seek all available concepts until they theoretical saturation is achieved</i>).	5
4	Inclusion criteria	Specify the inclusion/exclusion criteria (<i>e.g. in terms of population, language, year limits, type of publication, study type</i>).	5-6
5	Data sources	Describe the information sources used (<i>e.g. electronic databases (MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, psycINFO, Econlit), grey literature databases (digital thesis, policy reports), relevant organisational websites, experts, information specialists, generic web searches (Google Scholar) hand searching, reference lists</i>) and when the searches conducted; provide the rationale for using the data sources.	5
6	Electronic Search strategy	Describe the literature search (<i>e.g. provide electronic search strategies with population terms, clinical or health topic terms, experiential or social phenomena related terms, filters for qualitative research, and search limits</i>).	6
7	Study screening methods	Describe the process of study screening and sifting (<i>e.g. title, abstract and full text review, number of independent reviewers who screened studies</i>).	6-7
8	Study characteristics	Present the characteristics of the included studies (<i>e.g. year of publication, country, population, number of participants, data collection, methodology, analysis, research questions</i>).	12 (Table 3)
9	Study selection results	Identify the number of studies screened and provide reasons for study exclusion (<i>e.g. for comprehensive searching, provide numbers of studies screened and reasons for exclusion indicated in a figure/flowchart; for iterative searching describe reasons for study exclusion and inclusion based on modifications to the research question and/or contribution to theory development</i>).	8
10	Rationale for appraisal	Describe the rationale and approach used to appraise the included studies or selected findings (<i>e.g. assessment of</i>	7

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		<i>conduct (validity and robustness), assessment of reporting (transparency), assessment of content and utility of the findings).</i>	
11	Appraisal items	State the tools, frameworks and criteria used to appraise the studies or selected findings (<i>e.g. Existing tools: CASP, QARI, COREQ, Mays and Pope[25]; reviewer developed tools; describe the domains assessed: research team, study design, data analysis and interpretations, reporting).</i>	7
12	Appraisal process	Indicate whether the appraisal was conducted independently by more than one reviewer and if consensus was required.	7
13	Appraisal results	Present results of the quality assessment and indicate which articles, if any, were weighted/excluded based on the assessment and give the rationale.	8-9
14	Data extraction	Indicate which sections of the primary studies were analysed and how were the data extracted from the primary studies? (<i>e.g. all text under the headings "results /conclusions" were extracted electronically and entered into a computer software).</i>	7
15	Software	State the computer software used, if any.	7
16	Number of reviewers	Identify who was involved in coding and analysis.	7
17	Coding	Describe the process for coding of data (<i>e.g. line by line coding to search for concepts).</i>	7
18	Study comparison	Describe how were comparisons made within and across studies (<i>e.g. subsequent studies were coded into pre-existing concepts, and new concepts were created when deemed necessary).</i>	7
19	Derivation of themes	Explain whether the process of deriving the themes or constructs was inductive or deductive.	7
20	Quotations	Provide quotations from the primary studies to illustrate themes/constructs, and identify whether the quotations were participant quotations of the author's interpretation.	15-22
21	Synthesis output	Present rich, compelling and useful results that go beyond a summary of the primary studies (<i>e.g. new interpretation, models of evidence, conceptual models, analytical framework, development of a new theory or construct).</i>	15-22

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